

Naya L. Jones, PhD

Co-creating community well-being through action research + education

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- Education**
- PhD, Geography and the Environment. University of Texas at Austin.
- MA, Latin American Studies (Geography and Anthropology emphasis).
University of Texas at Austin.
- BA, English (Rhetoric) and Spanish. University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA.
magna cum laude and English Honors.
- Research/Teaching Areas**
- Critical food, health, and environmental studies; black geographies; youth/children's geographies; spatial injustice (gentrification, displacement, forced migration); embodied impacts of gentrification; grassroots food and healing practices; politics and practice of mind/body medicine; underrepresented/queer student wellbeing; black, Xicana, and indigenous feminist thought; critical race theory; expressive arts methods; critical pedagogy; participatory action research; Black Diaspora in North and Latin America
- Research**
- Dissertation: *Eating While Young and Black: Food, Foodways, and Gentrification in Austin, Texas*. University of Texas Austin.
- MA Thesis: *Afro-Mexican Plant Use and Biomedicine in Coyolillo, Veracruz*. University of Texas Austin.
- BA Grant-Funded Project: The Waning Rio Grande and Mexico's Water Debt to the United States. University of Puget Sound. Tacoma, WA.
- Fellowships/Awards** (*internal to University of Texas Austin unless indicated)
- Curriculum Innovation Grant (Proposal Co-Writer/Co-Instructor), 2015
 - Social Justice Institute Summer Research Grant, 2013
 - City of Austin Community Transformation Mini-grant (Proposal Co-Writer), 2013*
 - Association of American Geographers Dissertation Grant, 2012*
 - Association of American Geographers EDGE Career Grant, 2012*
 - Institute for Critical Participatory Action Research Workshop Scholarship, 2012*
 - Foodways Texas Travel Scholarship, 2012*
 - Ford Foundation Fellowship Alternate, 2011*
 - John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies Travel Grant, 2008
 - Graduate Student Professional Development Award, 2008

- Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship, 2007
- Lozano Long Summer Travel Research Grant for Latin American Studies, 2007
- Lozano Long Graduate Studies Fellowship for Latin American Studies, 2007-2008
- Research Internship Fellowship, 2006-2007

**Social Enterprise/
Get Rooted
Consulting LLC
(owner)**

October 2012-present. Co-founder - **Food for Black Thought.** Get Rooted Consulting LLC initiative. Community-based action research, education, trainings, and consulting on critical analysis of food systems through the lens of Black experiences past and present. Clients have included non-profits, university classrooms, and grassroots organizations. www.foodforblackthought.org

October 2008-present. Founder and facilitator - **RootWork.** Get Rooted Consulting LLC initiative. Culturally-relevant meditation and mind/body programs rooted in anti-oppression practice. Partners have included university groups, grassroots groups, and non-profits. www.root-work.com

Publications

Peer-Reviewed:

Jones, N. 2015. Book review of Bryant Terry's Cookbooks *Afro-Vegan*, *The Inspired Vegan*, and *Vegan Soul Kitchen*. *Food and Foodways: Explorations in the History and Culture of Human Nourishment*.

In preparation: Jones, N. *Through Home: Placing Black Food Geographies*. For submission to *Gender, Place, and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*.

In preparation: Cotter, E. and **Jones, N.** *Review of Mindfulness Meditation Research and Latinx Participants*.

Grant-Funded Reports:

Thomas, K. and Jones, N. *From the Ground Up! Using Stories to Promote Community Food System Resilience*. For the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network (AACORN). March 2016.

Public Scholarship:

A Bone to Pick with "Food Justice" Series on the Food for Black Thought Blog www.foodforblackthought.org. 2016.

Facilitation/

2017. Keynote Speaker. Via Hope Mental Health Resource Conference:

Speaking

Intersections: A Place Where Ideas, Experiences, and People Meet.

2017. Keynote & Visioning Speaker. Staff and Researcher Retreat. Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living.

2017. Meditation Facilitator. Healing Indigenous Project. Texas State University-San Marcos.

2017. Meditation Facilitator. Women of Color Retreat. Texas State University-San Marcos.

2016. Co-facilitator for Food Justice Workshops (Food for Black Thought Initiative). Food and Farming Fellowship - Urban Roots. Austin, Texas.

2016. Keynote Speaker. Fall Black Graduation, University of Texas-Austin.

2016. Opening Speaker. WeCon 2016: Women's Empowerment Conference. The Women's Community Center of Central Texas. Austin, Texas.

2016. Guest Speaker. Title: *Wellness and Healing in Academe*. Abriendo Brecha: Activist Scholarship Conference. University of Texas Austin.

2016. MC and Presenter. African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network 7th National Workshop. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2015. Guest Speaker. *Cooking Up Justice*. Latina Oral History Series. Southwestern University. Georgetown, Texas.

2014. Keynote Speaker. Title: *On the Move: Black Growers in the City*. Third Annual Foodways Texas Symposium. Texas A&M University. College Station, Texas.

2013. Mind/Body Workshop Facilitator. Women of Color Retreat. Multicultural Engagement Center. University of Texas Austin.

2013. Arts Workshop facilitator. Arts & Culture Children's Camp. Alma De Mujer Center for Social Change. Austin, Texas.

2012. Guest Speaker and Workshop facilitator. "*Are You Sure, Sweetheart, That You're Ready to Be Well?*": *Balancing Student Life*. Southwestern University. Georgetown, Texas.

2009. Keynote Symposium Speaker. *Empowered Knowledge : An Afro-Mexican Pharmacopoeia in Diasporic Perspective, Central Veracruz*. 50th Society for

Economic Botany Annual Meeting Symposium: African Ethnobotany in the Americas. Charleston, South Carolina.

**Training
Facilitation**

August 2017. Co-Trainer. Transformative Food Justice Curriculum Training. Urban Roots Staff. Austin, Texas.

**Presentations
Invited***

Jones, N. 2017. *Dying to Eat: An Homage to Black Life*. Presenter, *Geographies of Slow Violence* Session. American Association of Geographers. Boston, Massachusetts.

Jones, N. 2017. Panelist, *'Doing' Critical Geographies* Session. American Association of Geographers. Boston, Massachusetts.

*Jones, N. 2016. Panelist, *Dispossession: Discrimination against African American Farmers in the Age of Civil Rights*. Glasscock Working Group for Community Food Security and Food Justice Texas A&M University. College Station, Texas.

*Jones, N and Thomas, K. 2015. Title: *Kitchen Table Talk with Food for Black Thought*. Panelist for Abriendo Brecha: Opening a Path for Activist Scholarship Conference. University of Texas Austin.

*Jones, N. 2015. Title: *Letter to Audre Lorde*. Workshop presenter for *Healing Praxis: The Art and Science of Wellness* hosted by the John Warfield Center for African and African Diaspora Studies. University of Texas Austin.

*Jones, N. 2014. Panelist, *Race, Economics, and Food*. Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance Conference. Bastrop, Texas.

Jones, N. 2013. *Black Youth, Food, and Gentrification in East Austin*. Food for Black Thought: A Symposium. Hosted at University of Texas at Austin.

Jones, N. 2012. Title: *Of Soul Food and Barbacoa: Black and Latin@ Youth, Food, and Intersubjectivity*. Panelist, Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

* Jones, N. and Thomas, K. 2012. Title: *What's goin' on? Black Communities and Food Today*. Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, Texas.

Jones, N. and Thomas, K. 2012. *Black Food: Beyond the Production and Consumption Divide*. Food for Black Thought: A Symposium. University of Texas-Austin.

* Jones, N. and Thomas, K. 2012. Co-facilitator for *The Future of Soul Food? A Conversation with Hoover Alexander*. Second Annual Foodways Texas Symposium: Texas Preserved. Austin, Texas.

Jones, N. 2011. *Reframing local knowledge : An Afromexican Pharmacopoeia in Social-Ecological Systems Perspective*. Southwestern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG). University of Texas-Austin.

Jones, N. 2011. *Almost at Sea : La Afromexicana and the Im/possibility of Being*. English Graduate Symposium: Theory in the Flesh : Bodies of Scholarship, Activism, and Community. University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas.

*Jones, N. 2011. *A Twist of Time: Counter Media Geographies of La Afromexicana*. 2nd Annual Blackness and Media Project. University of Texas Austin.

Jones, N. 2008. *El uso de plantas medicinales y la biomedicina en Coyolillo, Veracruz*. Congreso: Diáspora, Nación, y Diferencia: Poblaciones de Origen Africana en México y Centroamérica. Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico.

*Jones, N. 2008. Guest Panelist for *The African Presence in Mexico*. Texas A&M University CALLALOO Symposium. College Station, Texas.

Teaching

January 2017-August 2017

Adjunct Instructor. Course: American Dilemmas - Focus on Food Systems. St. Edward's University. Austin, Texas.

September 2015-December 2016

Co-instructor. Course: Exploring Food and Urban Change. Grant-funded course crosslisted with Women and Gender Studies. Co-taught with K. Thomas as part of Food for Black Thought education initiatives on the University of Texas at Austin campus.

Summer 2015

Ecuador Study Abroad Graduate Teaching Assistant. Course: Human Geography and Sustainability. Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas at Austin.

Spring 2015 - Winter 2015

Adjunct Instructor. Course: Ancient Foods in the Modern World. Culinary Institute of the Americas - Latin American Cuisines Concentration. San Antonio, Texas.

Fall 2008, Spring/Fall 2012, Spring/Fall 2013

Graduate Teaching Assistant. Course: Physical Geography. Department of and the Environment, University of Texas Austin.

Summer 2012 and Spring 2014

Graduate Teaching Assistant. Course: Human Geography. Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas Austin.

Fall 2011

Graduate Teaching Assistant. Course: Latin American Environmental History and Sustainability (Signature Course, Writing Intensive). Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas Austin.

February 2011-July 2011

Temporary Program Manager. Rural Talent Search - Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

July 2009-February 2011

Academic Advisor and Course Instructor. Courses: English, Social Studies, and Spanish. American YouthWorks Charter High School. Austin, Texas.

February 2004-February 2005

GED English Language Arts Instructor. AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer at SER de New Mexico. Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Related Service

Equity Action Committee. City of Austin. December 2016-August 2017.

Scientific Planning Committee Member. Race in the Marketplace (RIM) Network. May 2016-present.

Environmental Education Volunteer. Alma De Mujer Center for Social Change. Austin, Texas. Children's Summer Camp 2014.

Geography Mentor, Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU). The Population Research Center, University of Texas Austin. Summer 2012.

Co-facilitator and co-designer, AAG ALIGNED Diversity Workshop (Association of American Geographers program). University of Texas-Austin. February - December 2012.

Evaluation Apprentice, Urban Roots. Austin, Texas. Spring 2012-Summer 2012.

Field Trip and Curriculum Apprentice, Urban Roots. Austin, Texas. Fall 2011.

Volunteer Adult Crew Leader, Urban Roots. Austin, Texas. Spring 2011.

Water Resources Intern. Center for Environmental Law and Policy. Spring 2003.

**Professional
Training**

Certification in Trauma Informed Yoga Therapy, Sundara Yoga Therapy. Austin, Texas. 2016.

Undoing Racism Training, People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. Austin, Texas. 2013.

Institute for Critical Participatory Action Research. Public Science Project, CUNY. Manhattan, New York. 2012.

Oral History Interview Methods. Southern Foodways Alliance, University of Mississippi. Oxford, Mississippi. 2012.

Certified Usui Reiki Master Training (Biofield Therapy), Pathfinder Reiki. Austin, Texas. 2009.